



# The Volunteer

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Volunteer In Parks Newsletter

December 2013



**In fiscal year 2013**

**2,129 Indiana Dunes**

**National Lakeshore volunteers  
donated 24,875 hours**

8671 hours for JP, Julie, Kim, Kip, Ryan, and Ted in  
Education and Interpretation and 8688 hours for Beth, Chrystal, Johnny K,  
Laura, Molly, Ted and Steve in Resources Management



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



No, we don't have bears in the park.

### Calumet Region Frog Monitoring

February 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Meadowbrook

In partnership with the Field Museum and Shirley Heinze  
Land Trust, learn the secrets of our local amphibians.

You will be a part of a region-wide group monitoring one  
of the earliest signs of spring, including Indiana Dunes  
National Lakeshore. Drop a note to Jim Erdelac at  
[volunteer@heinzetrust.org](mailto:volunteer@heinzetrust.org) so you can jump in.



### Paddling Safety Courses

Before you hit the Lake Michigan Water Trail for a great view of the park this  
summer, join Northwest Indiana Paddling Association for a series of paddle  
safety courses at Elston Middle School in Michigan City starting in January.  
Reservations required. Contact Dan Plath at [dkplath@gmail.com](mailto:dkplath@gmail.com) to reserve

your spot! (There is a fee to cover the cost of the lifeguard.) Check out NWIPA's website for more information  
about paddling in NW Indiana at [www.nwipa.org](http://www.nwipa.org)

### Cowles Bog Restoration Project

In February, Dr. Dan Mason will share information about all the amazing work  
that has been done to restore Cowles Bog. Date to be determined. Contact  
[Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov) if you are interested.



*Anything else you think volunteers should know more about, or you want to learn about?  
Drop me a note [Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov). I'd love to hear your suggestions!*

## National Park Foundation “Share the Experience” Photo Contest.



will be featured on the 2014 America the Beautiful Federal Recreation Lands Pass! Submit your best shots at [www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org) for a chance to win one of many great prizes. **Still time! You have until December 31, 2013, to enter your photos.**

**Help  
Wanted**

### ***Cross Country Skiers***

Saturdays

January and February

Know how to cross-country ski? Want to teach others?

We need help on Saturdays after a good snow to help

visitors who come to the Douglas Center for Family Day. The park provides the poles, skis and boots to the public. Contact

[Julianne\\_Larsen@nps.gov](mailto:Julianne_Larsen@nps.gov) for more information.



**Help  
Wanted**

### ***Stewardship Days***



The Third Saturday of Every Month

9:00 a.m.- Noon

Invasive species are choking the life out of the native plants in the park.

Contact [Ted\\_Winterfeld@nps.gov](mailto:Ted_Winterfeld@nps.gov) to find out where the volunteer stewards are going to work in the park and what you can do to help.

**Help  
Wanted**

### ***Trail Blazers***

Some of the trails in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore are easy to find and follow, others, not so much. We are looking for volunteers to help us update our trail maps and help make the trails easier to find. We need people willing to walk the trail, GPS confusing locations and help the park staff develop trail markers. Interested?

Contact [Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov).



# Volunteers Needed

## 2014 Maple Sugar Time

Dear Prospective Volunteer,

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's 36<sup>th</sup> annual Maple Sugar Time (March 1, 2, 8, and 9) and the associated school programs (Feb 28 and Mar 3 – 7) are right around the corner. We invite you to participate in this year's program. Maple Sugar Time is a celebration of the evolution of maple sugaring in Northwest Indiana and its effects on the land and people's lives. We hope you are excited to be a part of this wonderful historic and seasonal event.

The Maple Sugar Trail takes visitors past 5 stops that demonstrate how sugaring changes/evolves over time. The stops include:

Pre-contact American Indian Site – Shows how early American Indians might have made maple sugar. This stop interprets maple sugar making theories before contact with Europeans.

Metal Kettle Site – Shares the process and importance of sugaring to pioneers who used maple sugar as a yearly source of a locally available sweetener.

Drilling Posts Site – This stop provides visitors with a hands-on activity to give them an idea of the work involved in tapping trees. We encourage visitors to drill into and attach spiles and buckets to wooden posts rather than onto real trees.

Sugar Shack 1900–1930s Site - Explain how and why the Chellbergs made syrup.

Chellberg Farmhouse Site - Staffed by well-trained volunteer interpreters (in official VIP uniform). It gives visitors a chance to warm up, to taste pure maple syrup (and compare it to imitation maple syrup), and to learn how to use maple sugar products in cooking. In addition, it provides a brief look into rural life around 1900.

Your time spent volunteering is deeply appreciated by the national lakeshore staff and the park visitor. Without your efforts, there would not be a program of this quality. Please use the MST volunteer sign-up sheet and follow the instructions to join in on the fun.

Thank you for sharing your time and talents,

JP Anderson



# 2014 Maple Sugar Time - Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th

SPECIAL NOTE: Everyone needs to attend one of the following, please select one.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, February 15 at 9:00 – noon** -MST workday, setting-up the sugar bush and shack; please meet at Bailly/Chellberg Parking lot

\_\_\_\_\_ **Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00 p.m.** –Training/Review - Meet at the Indiana Dunes Training Room

\_\_\_\_\_ **Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.** –Training/Review - Meet at the Indiana Dunes Training Room

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my schedule via (Circle one) E-mail Paper Mail Phone

Best time(s) I can be reached if we have questions \_\_\_\_\_

I have volunteered for Maple Sugar Time \_\_\_\_\_ (years).

*Note: It is often wet/muddy/slushy and on uneven surfaces, please wear appropriate footwear.*

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## Volunteering for Maple Sugar Time Public Weekends

I can work: March 1st \_\_\_\_\_ March 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ March 8th \_\_\_\_\_ March 9th \_\_\_\_\_

Number as many choices below with 1 being first choice

\_\_\_ **Greeting the Public** - greeting arriving visitors; give information, information booth (9:30am – 4:00pm)

\_\_\_ **Tour Greeter/Organizer** - greeting a.m. tour visitors and organizing tour times (9:30am – noon)

\_\_\_ **Visitor Center** - assist with Bailly/Chellberg visitor center operations (10:00am – 4:30pm)

\_\_\_ **Pre-metal/Native American site** - maintain fire & boil sap using log & rocks method (9:30am – 4:30pm)

\_\_\_ **Pioneer (kettle) site** - maintain fire & boil sap using kettle method (9:30am – 4:30pm)

\_\_\_ **Drilling Posts Site** - demonstrate tapping process: brace, bit, spiles, and buckets. Assist visitors.

\_\_\_ **\*Sugar Shack-Evaporator Operator** - maintain fire & boil sap in sugar shack; \*special training required

\_\_\_ **Tour/Trail Conclusion** - syrup tasting-fill cups and distribute to visitors

\_\_\_ **Interpret House** - importance of the different rooms and uses during late winter

\_\_\_ **Interpret Kitchen Life** – wood stove, water, uses of maple syrup & sugar

\_\_\_ **Logistics** – gather sap, move wood, etc (Public Weekends) 10:00am – 4:00





## VOLUNTEERING AT MST IS FUN AND LOTS OF HELP IS NEEDED!

*Note: It is often wet/muddy/slushy and on uneven surfaces, please wear appropriate footwear.*

\_\_\_\_ **Distribute flyers** - pick-up MST flyers at VC and distribute to area businesses

\_\_\_\_ **Collecting sap** - February 19 through March 9 (circle) Su. M. Tu. W. Th. F. Sa. I will call the MST Volunteer Hotline (219-395-1848) or Please call me \_\_\_\_ hours/days before I am needed.

\_\_\_\_ **Tear-down/Clean-up** - I can help wash buckets and tubs after MST.

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### Volunteering For Maple Sugar Time School Programs Friday, February 28 – Friday, March 7, 2014

I am able to work (circle dates):

School programs run from 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

The time you are needed depends on activities assigned.

We will try to schedule your preferred activities.

MARCH				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				28
03	04	05	06	07

Number as many choices below with 1 being first choice

- \_\_\_\_ greeting school buses upon arrival
- \_\_\_\_ Native American site (tending the fire)
- \_\_\_\_ Pioneer site (kettles, tending the fires)
- \_\_\_\_ working at the sugar shack
- \_\_\_\_ greeting children/providing house tour/filling maple syrup cups
- \_\_\_\_ cooking on wood burning stove inside house
- \_\_\_\_ assistant cook (great learning experience)
- \_\_\_\_ logistics (moving firewood, etc.)

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### Please sign-up by February 5, 2014

#### You Can Sign Up by Email, Paper Mail, or Phone

Email ([jean-pierre\\_anderson@nps.gov](mailto:jean-pierre_anderson@nps.gov)) - Phone Your Response to Voice Mail (219-395-1848) or Paper mail to:

J.P. Anderson  
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 North Mineral Springs Road  
Porter, IN 46304-1299

Have questions??? Please call J.P. Anderson at 219-395-1848.

### Thank You For Keeping Your Historic Sites Alive!



The Volunteer  
for Comments contact VIP program manager Lynda Lancaster at  
219-395-1682 or [Lynda.Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda.Lancaster@nps.gov)

